

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 18 is cancelled.

Support for each new and amended claim is found at the originally filed claims and throughout the originally filed specification. Additionally, support for the phrase “and, between the middle layer b) and the backing layer c), a semicompatible polymer mixture d)” of present Claim 1, is found, for example, at page 16, lines 28-30, of the originally filed specification.

No new matter is believed to have been added.

The indefiniteness rejection of Claims 1-15, 19 and 20 is believed to be obviated by the amendment of Claim 1. Applicants note that present Claim 1 describes a multilayer film comprising at least one upper layer a) and one middle layer b), a backing layer c) and, between the middle layer b) and the backing layer c), a semicompatible polymer mixture d). Applicants submit that there are distinguishable layers in the multilayer film, and thus, that present Claim 1, and the claims depending therefrom, are definite. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully traverse the anticipation and obviousness rejections of the claims as being unpatentable in over USPub 20020054991 ('991), because '991 is not enabled as a rejection reference for the present claims, and therefore, rejections made based on this non-enabling reference are improper. Applicants also traverse the anticipation and obviousness rejections based on '991 because '991 does not describe or suggest all of the features of the present claims.

Present Claim 1 is drawn to a multilayer film, comprising at least one upper layer a) and one middle layer b), a backing layer c), and, between the middle layer b) and the backing layer c), a semicompatible polymer mixture d). The middle layer b) comprises a (meth)acrylate copolymer, the backing layer c) comprises a

polycarbonate, and the semicompatible polymer mixture d) comprises the (meth)acrylate copolymer from b) and the polycarbonate from c).

As described in the originally filed specification, at page 6, lines 37-40, polymethylmethacrylate and polycarbonate do not produce a semicompatible mixture, but rather, produce an incompatible mixture. As described at page 7 of the originally filed specification, examples of methacrylate copolymers that can form semicompatible mixtures with polycarbonate may be composed of “units of ...methyl methacrylate, optionally vinylic monomers,...and (meth)acrylic acid esters containing, for example, cycloalkyl radicals, multiple-alkyl substituted cycloalkyl radicals, cycloalkyl alkylene radicals, cycloalkyl oxyalkylene radicals.”

Applicants respectfully note for ‘991, that the hydroxyl-modified imine polymer is found on the surface of ‘991’s thermoplastic film (see the Abstract of ‘991) and not elsewhere (such as between two internal layers) in the ‘991’s thermoplastic film. Thus, for a two layer thermoplastic film of ‘991, coated on the surface with the hydroxyl-modified imine polymer, the raw materials listed in paragraph 19 of ‘991 that would be equivalent of the backing layer c) and middle layer b), as exemplified by the Office in the Official Action, are polymethyl methacrylate and polycarbonate.

A mixture of polymethyl methacrylate and polycarbonate, as described at paragraph 19 of ‘991, will not produce a semicompatible polymer mixture, a feature of, for example, present Claim 1, based on the teachings of the originally filed specification at, for example, page 6, lines 37-40. Further, ‘991 itself is silent as to semicompatible mixtures and their formation.

The Office has relied on variations of the hydroxyl-modified imine polymer film of ‘991, as disclosed, for example, in Claim 1, reproduced at page 6 of the Official Action, to show for example, the incorporation of cyclo alkyl groups into the imine polymer. Applicants submit this does not make a case for obviousness and anticipation of the present claims because, for example, if the thermoplastic film of ‘991 is a two layer film that is surface treated with ‘991’s imine polymer, then the materials exemplified by the Office, from paragraph 19 of ‘991, in the Official Action will not form a semicompatible polymer mixture.

For example, a mixture of polymethyl methacrylate and polycarbonates, as described at paragraph 19 of ‘991, will not produce a semicompatible polymer mixture, a feature of present Claim 1 found at the boundary between the middle layer b) and the backing layer c), and the imine polymer surface treatment of ‘991 does not remedy this deficiency.

Additionally, there is no evidence to describe or suggest, in ‘991, that ‘991’s imine polymer could form a semicompatible mixture with, for example, a single layer thermoplastic film of polycarbonate.

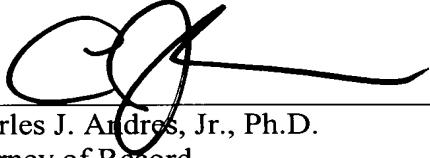
However, even if this could occur, and there is no evidence to suggest it would, because the resulting treated product would contain only two layers with, between them, a semicompatible boundary, there would be no layer above the imine polymer surface treatment layer, as required, for example, in present Claim 1.

Thus, ‘991 does not describe or suggest all of the features of the present Claim 1, and the claims depending therefrom, and by extension, present Claims 16-17, and further, lacks enablement for a feature of present Claim 1, the claims depending therefrom, and by extension, present claims 16-17. Withdrawal of the anticipation and obviousness rejections is requested.

Applicants submit the present application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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